CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of AIDS which comprises administering to an individual a therapeutically effective dose of a sterile composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle and unclipped HIV env.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the unclipped HIV env comprises full-length gp 120 or a fragment thereof.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the unclipped HIV env comprises full-length gp 160 or a fragment thereof.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the composition is administered to an individual following exposure or risk of exposure to HIV.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the composition is administered as one of a series of inoculations.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the series includes inoculation with at least one HIV antigen which is different from the composition of claim 1.

7. The use of unclipped HIV env in the preparation of a vaccine against HIV.

8. An HIV vaccine comprising unclipped HIV env in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. The vaccine of claim 8 wherein an amino acid residue within the unclipped HIV env other than at the clip site is substituted or deleted, or has an adjacent insertion of another amino acid residue.

10. The vaccine of claim 9 wherein a fragment comprising between 1 and 30 N-terminal amino acid residues is deleted.

11. An unclipped HIV env preparation which is substantially free of clipped HIV env fragments.

12. The preparation of claim 11, being at least 50 percent free of clipped HIV env fragments.

13. A composition of matter comprising unclipped gp120.

14. A composition of matter comprising unclipped gp160.

15. A method for producing unclipped HIV env comprising the following steps:

a. contacting a first preparation of HIV env with an antibody directed to an HIV env epitope spanning the clip site for a time sufficient to permit formation of a second, antibody-bound unclipped HIV env, preparation;

b. separating the second preparation from any HIV env which is not antibody-bound; and

c. recovering the unclipped HIV env from said second preparation.

16. A method for the isolation of unclipped HIV env comprising affinity chromatography wherein antibody directed to an HIV env epitope spanning the clip site is bound to a carrier matrix and a solution containing HIV env and unclipped HIV env is passed over the column and unclipped HIV env is selectively adsorbed to the matrix-bound antibody, the adsorbed antibody- unclipped HIV env matrix is washed to remove non-adsorbed material, and the unclipped HIV env is eluted.

17. A method for producing unclipped HIV env, comprising growing a mammalian cell transformed with DNA encoding unclipped HIV env and competent for replicating and expressing unclipped HIV env, said cell being grown in media with low serum, and recovering unclipped HIV env.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said media contains approximately 0-3 percent serum.

19. An antibody which has the characteristics of a monoclonal antibody

selected from the group consisting of 6E10, 13H8, 11G5, 10F6, and 6D8.

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20. A monoclonal antibody, selected from the group consisting of monoclonal antibodies 5B3, 5B6, 5C2, 6D8, 6E10, 7F11, 7G11, 9E3, 10C1, 10D8, 10F6, 11G5, 13H8, 14F12, and 15G7, which is covalently bound to a detectable marker or a water insoluble matrix.

21. A composition suitable for administration to a patient consisting of a monoclonal antibody selected from the group consisting of monoclonal antibodies 5B3, 5B6, 5C2, 6D8, 6E10, 7F11, 7G11, 9E3, 10C1, 10D8, 10F6, 11G5, 13H8, 14F12, and 15G7, in a sterile pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

22. The composition of claim 21, wherein said monoclonal antibody is conjugated to a toxin.

23. A method comprising administering a therapeutically acceptable dose of the composition of claim 21 to a patient having or at risk of having HIV infection.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition is administered in a series of at least three successive inoculations, administration of a first inoculation being followed within a time period of from two to eight weeks by a second inoculation, said second inoculation being followed by a third inoculation within a time period of from five months to two years following said first inoculation.

25. The method of claim 1, wherein the dosage of unclipped HIV env in said composition is from approximately 10 μg to 1 mg.

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